

REMARKS

In light of the foregoing remarks and amendments, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and the rejections set forth in the Office Action dated January 11, 2005 are respectfully requested. Claims 1-7 were pending in this application at the time the present Office Action was mailed. In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings and specification, and rejected claims 1-7.

Claims 1-5 and 7 are cancelled in this correspondence; accordingly, only claim 6 is now pending.

Response to the Objections to the Drawings

The drawings were objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.83(a), because the "controller" recited in claim 1 and the "zero crossing detector" recited in claim 4 were not shown in the drawings. These claims have been cancelled.

Response to the Objections to the specification

The abstract of the disclosure was objected to based on MPEP § 608.01(b), because it solely contained a brief description of a full-wave sense amplifier while the claimed invention is an apparatus and method for driving a discharge lamp. In light of the amendments in this Office Action Response, the abstract is in conformity with MPEP § 608.01(b), and overcomes the Examiner's objection.

The disclosure was objected to because of informalities, in particular for the absence of the phrase "now U.S. Patent No. 6,683,422," in the Cross-Reference section of the specification. The said phrase has been added to the Cross-Reference section as required by the Examiner.

Response to Section Rejections of Claims

With respect to the remaining pending Claim 6, the Examiner asserts that the Lin patent is anticipatory. However, a close reading of Lin indicates that Lin is precisely the type of prior art that is distinguished by Claim 6. Specifically, the Examiner argues that the Lin patent teaches the sensing of a full wave current using the comparator or amplifier 42.

This reading of Lin is in error. Lin does not teach the sensing of a full wave current. Specifically, turning to Figure 2 of Lin, the current sense 42 receives as its input a signal on a node between resistor Rs and diode D5. Because of the diode D5, by definition only half (either the positive going or negative going portion) of the current signal may be sensed. The only way that Lin could be modified to sense the full wave current signal would be to add another current sense (a duplicate of 42) that senses the current at diode D6. However, this is clearly not shown in Lin.

Further, as seen in Col. 7, lines 49-52, a feedback signal FB is the current through the resistors, which of course is the current through diode D5. The fact that a diode D5 is used (a one way current device) clearly indicates that the current sensed as feedback signal FB is not the full wave signal, but rather just a half-wave signal.

In view of the above, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. The required fee is submitted herewith. However, if any additional fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0665, under Order No. 386168008US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated:

4/29/05

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Chun M. Ng

Registration No.: 36,878

PERKINS COIE LLP

P.O. Box 1247

Seattle, Washington 98111-1247

(206) 359-8000

(206) 359-7198 (Fax)

Attorneys for Applicant